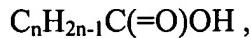


Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 28 through page 2a line 7, as follows:

According to the present invention, the problem has been resolved by a method for preparing metal salts of unsaturated, short-chain carboxylic acids by reaction

- of metal-alcoholate compounds
- with carboxylic acids of the general formula

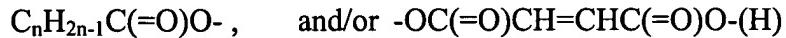


wherein the double bond is in 2- or 3-position and

n represents 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 and/or maleic acid (less desirable),

in the presence of oxygen, which is continuously fed so that its concentration in the reaction solution is at least 50 %, i.e., the reaction solution is 50% oxygen-saturated and

the metal salts have at least one group of the formula



and the following metals or mixtures thereof

Al, Si, Sn, La, Zr, Cu and/or Zn.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 21, as follows:

wherein R² or R³ represent -CH₃, -C₂H₅, -C₃H₇ or -C₄H₉
and n, R¹, R², and R³ may be different for each a, b, and c and
at least one R¹ in M(R¹)_c represents an alcoholate group having a C₁ – to C₆ hydrocarbons residue, in the presence of oxygen (O₂), which is continuously fed so that its concentration in the reaction is at least 50 % as set forth above.